

Claims

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for requesting and receiving medical patient test results using a remote data input terminal in communication with a server-based lab test message computer, the method comprising:

receiving a test sample collected to perform the requested medical patient test with the patient identification information and the test identification information;

receiving the patient identification information and the test identification information from the remote data input terminal in order to request the medical patient tests to be performed upon the collected test sample;

transmitting a test result message containing test results for the requested medical patient test to the remote data input terminal; and

displaying the test results from the requested medical patient test on the remote data input terminal.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the remote data input terminal comprises a hand-held computer having a wireless communications interface for communicating with the lab test message processor.

3. The method according to claim 2, wherein the remote data input terminal further comprises a bar code scanner for receiving data input.

4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the remote data input terminal further comprises a pen-based user input screen for accepting input from a user.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the entering patient identification information comprises scanning a patient bar code containing a unique patient ID.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein the patient bar code is located on a patient bracelet worn by the patient.

7. The method according to claim 5, wherein the patient bar code is located on a patient chart.

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein the patient identification information and the test identification information comprises one or more bar codes.

9. The method according to claim 1, wherein the method further comprises:
entering patient identification information for a medical patient test requested to be performed into the remote data input terminal;
entering test identification information for identifying the medical patient test requested be performed into the remote data input terminal;
identifying one or more recipients for the test result message; and
transmitting the one or more recipient's identity to the lab test message processor for use when sending the test results to desired recipients.

10. The method according to claim 9, wherein the method further comprises:
receiving the identity of one or more additional recipients for the test result message;
and
forwarding the test result message to the one or more additional recipients.

11. The method according to claim 10, wherein the forwarding the test result message comprises:

receiving the identity of the one or more additional recipients to the lab test message processor; and

sending the test result message to the additional recipients.

12. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for the method recited in claim 1.

13. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for the method recited in claim 11.

14. A server-based lab test message processor in digital communications with a remote data input terminal having a user interface screen for a receiving medical patient requests and transmitting test results, the server-based lab test message processor comprising:

a control processing module for controlling the operation of the server;
a test request message receive module for receiving medical test request messages from the remote data input terminal, the medical test request messages contain test identification information for identifying the medical patient test and patient identification information for identifying the patient;

a test result message transmit module for sending medical test result messages to the remote data input terminal, the test result messages contain test identification information for identifying the medical patient test performed and patient identification information for identifying the patient;

a test result message receive module for receiving medical test result messages from a lab testing facility; and

an internal database for maintaining test request messages and test result messages; wherein the control processing module matches test request with test result messages and the test request messages using the test identification information and the patient identification information.

15. The lab test message processor according to claim 14, wherein the lab test message computer comprises a wireless communications module for communicating with the remote data input terminal.

16. The lab test message processor according to claim 15, wherein the remote data input terminal is a hand-held computer that accepts pen-based input data generated using pen strokes from a stylus upon a user interface screen

17. The lab test message processor according to claim 15, wherein the remote data input terminal further comprises a user ID scanning module for accepting input for the patient identification information and the test identification information.

18. The lab test message processor according to claim 17, wherein the user ID scanning module comprises a scanning module for scanning bar codes.

19. The lab test message processor according to claim 18, wherein the lab test message processor further comprises a patient records interface module for transmitting test result records to a patient records processing system.